equipment is concerned. Civil Aviation Training College at Allaahbad takes care of the training requirements of the personnel. Improvement in aircraft maintenance is a continuous effort and its reliability is monitored regularly. Similarly upgradation of navigational aids at the airports is a continuous process. For improvement of navigational facilities, the National Airports Authority has drawn a perspective plan upto the year 2000-A.D. Augmentation of navigational facilities will take place in a phased manner subject to availability of funds. Adequate stocks of spare parts are maintained as per modern materials management systems.

Snags in Airbus A-320

1538. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether series of snags had been detected in new Airbus 320s during the last 2-3 months and if so, what are the details thereof:

(b) whether it is a fact that these snags were not attended to or glossed over due to the recent engineers' strike due to lack of training to pilots as also inadequate covered area for Airbus;

(c) whether these bottlenecks will be overcome in the near future; and

(d) whether Government proposed to increase the insurance aircover on passengers; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Some snags experienced by Indian Airlines in the operation of A320 aircraft relate to smoke in cabin, pressurisation system, hydraulic system, auxiliary power unit, nose wheel steering system and Radome.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The A320 aircraft represents a significant advancement in technology. Some teething problems are generally associated with the induction of any new type of aircraft. These problems have been discussed with the manufacturers and appropriate corrective action is being taken. A task force has been set up by the Indian Airlines to analyse the recurrent snags and take remedial action.

(d) There is no such proposal at present.

Flouting of orders pertaining to promotion of pilots

1539. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Indian Airlines has been flouring the orders of Government in the matter of promotion of pilots and even ignoring 'strictures' by courts; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) In Indian Airlines, there are two Court cases in the matter of selection of pilots from amongst pilots to the post of Deputy Operations Manager and Operations Manager in the High Court of Bombay and the High Court of Calcutta,, respectively. The Hon'ble Single Judge of the respective Courts has *inter-alia* held that allocation of 70 per cent marks for interview was high. Against the above judgements, Indian Airlines has filed appeals before the Division Benches of these High Courts. In the meantime, on the basis of observation made by the High Court of Bombay and also the advice of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Indian Airlines has reduced weightage assigned to interview from 70 per cent to 50 per cent with effect from 6.12.1988 and raised the total marks Allocated in respect of Annual performance Appraisal from 30 per cent to 50 per cent.